

Reconciled

Today, as we study together we want to focus on Paul's writing in Colossians 1.19-23. Here, we are reminded of Jesus' work of deliverance and reconciliation so that we might be holy, faultless, and blameless before Him. We are also reminded of our own personal responsibility to be willing and active participants in the process. We must continue to choose Jesus. Will we continue to receive and apply the message? Will we move with a desire for self-examination and application? Today we'll do two things: Understand what it means to be reconciled. We will also see how that reconciliation impacts you personally, In your past, present, and future.

I. What It Means to be Reconciled

- A. Colossians 1:19–20: *For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to **reconcile** everything to himself, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.*
 - 1. "Reconcile" means to change, or exchange. It describes a change in relationship.
- B. Colossians 1:22: *But now he has reconciled you by his physical body through his death, ...*
 - 1. His sacrifice was more than enough.
 - 2. Romans 8:3: *For what the law could not do since it was weakened by the flesh, God did. He condemned sin in the flesh by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh as a sin offering,*

II. What Reconciliation Means for You

- A. 1.21: Your Past - Alienated from God
 - 1. Once you were alienated and hostile in your minds as expressed in your evil actions.
 - 2. "you" - everything Paul is teaching here applies personally to them.
 - 3. "were alienated" - a continuous state. A complete absence of any contact with God.
 - 4. "**hostile** in your minds" - Sin hardened your attitude toward God and His holy standard.
 - 5. which led to... "**evil** actions."
- B. 1.22: Your Present: Reconciled and Made Holy
 - 1. It is His death that reconciles us. For what purpose?
 - 2. 1.22b: Made **Holy**. *How God sees you*: Cleansed from all sin.
 - 3. 1.22c: Made **Faultless**. *How you see yourself*: Without blemish. Unblameable.
 - 4. 1.22d: Made **Blameless**. *How others view you*. You are unchargeable; unimpeachable; guiltless.
 - 5. 1.22e: *Before Him*. NKJV: "in his sight." Presently God sees your position "in Christ."
- C. 1.23: Your Future - Steadfast in the Faith
 - 1. **If** ... we must persevere in our walk with God. Salvation is conditional....
 - 2. We must **remain** or "continue" (ESV) Ongoing perseverance in faithfulness to the Christian life. Remain in your position.
 - 3. **Grounded** and "Steadfast" ... security is obtained by our painstaking work at every point in the process. *Am I committed to being grounded? Rooted? Stable? Secure? **Grounded in what?***
 - 4. "the Faith," i.e., the Christian faith in an objective sense i.e, the teachings about Christ.
 - 5. Why the urgency? Why the vigilance? Why the constant attention? We can **shift away**.
 - a) If we allow ourselves to be moved away from the source ... we lose our hope.
 - b) Perseverance is the hallmark of the true saint.

III. As We Close...

- A. The Lordship of Jesus is to govern our lives.
- B. "Rooted" means Jesus is the source of your life. To be in union with Him and a part of His body.
- C. Are you in union with Him?